

REMARKS AND ARGUMENTS:

Applicants have fully considered the Office Action dated May 24, 2007. In view of the above amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the rejections, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Claim Amendments:

Applicants respectfully submit the above amendments do not add new matter to the claims, as support for the amendments may be found in the application as originally filed. Specifically, support for the amendments to Claim 1 may be found at least in paragraphs [00030] and [00051] and presently cancelled Claim 20. Applicants request cancellation of Claim 20 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim Interpretation:

Applicants note the Examiner's claim interpretation and respectfully disagree. According to the Examiner, "Applicants do not set forth distinct species in the claims for the 'polyarylamine polymer,' ...and 'an other flocculant and/or coagulant'." Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 1 sets forth a list of arylamines suitable for use in the reaction of the aldehyde and the arylamine as well as a list of acceptable species for the flocculant. Applicants further submit that one having ordinary skill in the art would recognize that the recitation "a flocculant selected from the group consisting of" would require the selection of a flocculant from the list recited in Claim 1. One having ordinary skill in the art would further recognize that the list of polyarylamine polymers and the list of flocculants recited in Claim 1 do not overlap.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112:

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-5 and 8-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the

subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse.

According to the Examiner, the phrase, "an other flocculant and/or coagulant" lacks proper antecedent basis since the claims do not positively recite a flocculant and/or coagulant for "an other flocculant and/or coagulant" to be present. Applicant respectfully submits the amendment to Claim 1, renders the rejection moot. Applicants further submit that one having ordinary skill in the art would recognize that the polyarylamine polymer and the flocculant are chemically distinct from one another as described above. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of cancelled Claim 20 as being moot.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b):

Claims 1-5, 8-9, 16 and 20 stand as rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Erikson. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

According to the Examiner, Erikson discloses making methylene dianilines by the reaction of 3 moles of aniline to 1 mole of formaldehyde, i.e., 0.33 moles of formaldehyde per mole of aniline. Applicants respectfully submit present Claim 1 recites an excess of aldehyde in the reaction of the aldehyde and the arylamine. Specifically, Claim 1 recites "...the reaction of between about 1.3 moles to about 1.9 moles aldehyde per mole of arylamine." Erikson teaches an excess of aniline over aldehyde. The teaching of Erikson is diametrically opposed to the present excess of aldehyde in the reaction. Accordingly, Erikson does not anticipate the present claims. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-5, 8-12, and 14-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nalco. Applicants respectfully traverse.

According to the Examiner, Nalco disclose the products comprising the reaction products of aniline and formaldehyde added as flocculants to treat turbid waters. Applicants respectfully submit Nalco teaches the inclusion of tripolymers having a ratio of aldehyde to arylamine of 1:1. The present composition includes polyarylamines formed by the reaction of between about 1.3 to about 1.9 moles of an aldehyde per

mole of arylamine. Accordingly, the polyarylamine polymer of the present invention will not have a ratio of aldehyde to arylamine of 1:1. Additionally, the Nalco polymers do not meet the recitations of the flocculants set forth in Claim 1.

To be anticipatory, a reference must teach or disclose the presently claimed composition. Because the present claims recite a polymer formed from the reaction of between about 1.3 moles and about 1.9 moles of aldehyde per mole of arylamine, the present composition is not disclosed by Nalco. Accordingly, the present composition is not anticipated by Nalco. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-5 and 8-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Nalco in view of Rey. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

According to the Examiner, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicants' invention to employ a combination of flocculant and/or coagulant with the polymers of Nalco. Applicants respectfully submit, as discussed above, the present polymers are distinct from the polymers of Nalco because they do not employ a 1:1 ratio of aldehyde:aniline as taught by Nalco. Nalco does not recognize the benefits of the excess aldehyde taught in the present specification at least at [00029]. Moreover, Table 1 and paragraph [00080] of the present specification, clearly demonstrate the present polyarylamine polymers' significant improvements in paint detackifying over melamine-formaldehyde polymers.

The Examiner states it is *prima facie* obvious to use in combination two or more ingredients that have previously been used separately for the same purpose.

Applicants respectfully submit that the polymers of Nalco are distinct from the presently claimed polyarylamine polymers. There is no reason that one having ordinary skill in the art would modify the teachings of Nalco as required to achieve the presently recited polyarylamine polymers and then combine those modified polymers with the polymers of Rey to achieve the presently claimed composition. Similarly, there is nothing within Nalco, Rey, or the art that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to expect the improvements in paint detackifying by the presently claimed composition and demonstrated in Table 1 and paragraph [00080] of the present specification.

The present claims are not, therefore, obvious in view of the cited combination. Withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejections is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Request for reconsideration:

Applicants respectfully submit that, in view of the above amendments and remarks, the present application and claims are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejections and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

It is believed that no additional fees are due in conjunction with the filing of this response. If, however, it is determined that additional fees are due, authorization is hereby given to deduct those fees from Deposit Account No. 50-2548.

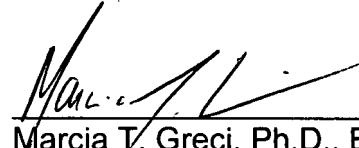
If one or all of the claims are deemed to not be allowable, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number given below for resolution of any remaining issues.

Respectfully requested,

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Date



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